

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an exterior body panel for use on automotive vehicles, comprising:
 - providing a decorative web layer;
 - forming a laminate by providing a first thermoplastic material on a top side and a second thermoplastic material on a bottom side of the decorative web layer, at least one of the ~~top side and bottom side~~ first and the second thermoplastic material being substantially transparent;
 - heating the laminate;
 - conforming the laminate into a desired shape; and
 - cooling the laminate;
 - wherein the thermoplastic material on the side opposite to the transparent layer, when the laminate is cooled, is sufficiently rigid to form an exterior body panel for attachment to the exterior surface of a vehicle frame.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the decorative web layer is flexible.
3. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the laminate is pressed in a vacuum molding die machine comprising an upper die and a lower die.
4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein a vacuum conforms the laminate to one of the upper die and the lower die.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of making vacuum formed exterior body panels, comprising:
- providing a layer of decorative web material;
 - depositing on one side of the decorative web material a first mixture of epoxy and plastic for forming a first plastic layer that is substantially transparent;
 - depositing on an opposite side of the decorative web material a second mixture of epoxy and plastic for forming a second plastic layer;
 - heating the decorative web material and the first and second plastic layers;
 - pressing the decorative web material, the ~~top~~ first plastic layer and the ~~bottom~~ second plastic layer in a vacuum mold to form a laminate; and
 - cooling the pressed laminate;
- wherein the second plastic layer ~~on the side opposite to the transparent layer,~~ when the laminate is cooled, is sufficiently rigid to form an exterior body panel for attachment to the exterior surface of a vehicle frame.
6. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the layer of decorative web material is flexible.
7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the vacuum mold comprises an upper die and a lower die.
8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, further comprising removing air from the vacuum mold in forming the molded laminate.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the providing the decorative web layer includes providing the decorative web layer formed from one of fabric and screening.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the providing the layer of decorative web material includes providing the layer of decorative web material formed from one of fabric and screening.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 24, wherein the forming the laminate includes applying the first and the second thermoplastic material to the decorative web layer by spraying.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the depositing of the first and the second mixture of epoxy and plastic on both sides of the decorative web material includes depositing the first and the second mixture of epoxy and plastic by spraying.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 24, wherein the forming the laminate includes applying the first and the second thermoplastic material to the decorative web layer by applying pre-formed sheets of the first and the second thermoplastic material.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the depositing of the first and the second mixture of epoxy and plastic on both sides of the decorative web material includes depositing the first and the second mixture of epoxy and plastic by applying pre-formed sheets of epoxy and plastic.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an exterior body panel on an automotive vehicle, comprising:

providing a decorative web layer;

forming a laminate by providing a first mixture of an epoxy and a thermoplastic material on a top side of the decorative web layer and by providing a second mixture of an epoxy and a thermoplastic material on a bottom side of the decorative web layer, at least one of the top side and bottom side being substantially transparent;

heating the laminate;

conforming the laminate into a desired shape;

cooling the laminate; and

attaching the laminate directly to the exterior of the frame of an automotive vehicle by attaching the thermoplastic material that is on the side of the laminate opposite to the transparent material side directly to the exterior of the frame of an automotive vehicle.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the providing a decorative web layer includes providing a decorative web layer formed from one of fabric and screening.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the forming the laminate includes the step of applying the first and the second mixture of the epoxy and the thermoplastic material to the decorative web layer by spraying.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the forming the laminate includes the step of applying the first and the second mixture of the epoxy and the thermoplastic material to the decorative web layer by applying pre-formed sheets of the first and the second mixture of the epoxy and the thermoplastic material.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the conforming the laminate into a desired shape includes the step of pressing the laminate in a vacuum mold.

24. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first and the second thermoplastic material contains an epoxy.

25. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first and the second thermoplastic material are substantially the same material.

26. (New) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the first and the second mixture of epoxy and plastic are substantially the same mixture.

27. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the first and the second mixture of the epoxy and the thermoplastic material are substantially the same mixture.